

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 28 (Canceled).

29 (Original). A method for treating an individual experiencing a condition on a continuum from early sepsis to septic shock comprising the steps of

drawing the blood from the circulatory system of the individual for return to the circulatory system, and

removing cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators from the blood by bringing the blood into contact with an adsorption medium sized to selectively adsorb cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators from the blood, the adsorption medium being characterized by a Biocompatibility Index of not greater than 14.

30 (Original). A method according to claim 29

wherein the Biocompatibility Index is not greater than 7.

31 (Currently Amended). A ~~system~~ method according to claim 29

wherein the adsorption medium comprises a polymeric material.

32 (Currently Amended). A ~~system~~ method according to claim 31

wherein the polymeric material comprises particles formed from a porous hydrophobic divinylbenzene copolymer having a surface modified to include surface exposed functional groups selected from the group of polymers of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, N-vinylpyrrolidine,